

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA:JJHELBLE/SB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. EDMOND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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HONG KONG FOR CROSS; WELLINGTON HOLD FOR HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BEXP, HK

SUBJECT: APCAC MEETING IN HONG KONG

1. IN ACCORDANCE YOUR REQUEST, HERewith IS A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB TO APCAC WHICH YOU MAY READ AT FIRST MEETING.

2. QUOTE DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN:

QUOTE TO YOU AND ALL THE DELEGATES FROM THE VARIOUS AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ATTENDING THIS WEEKEND'S APCAC CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG, I EXTEND MY VERY BEST REGARDS. THROUGHOUT THE YEARS I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THOROUGHLY ACQUAINTED WITH, FIRST, THE AMERICAN CHAMBER IN SEOUL, AND, SECOND, IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, MANY OF THE MEMBERS IN OTHER CHAMBERS THROUGHOUT THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AREA, AS WELL AS APCAC AND ITS VARIOUS OFFICERS--BOTH PAST AND PRESENT. IT IS

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THEREFORE MUCH TO MY REGRET THAT I AM NOT ABLE TO BE

WITH YOU IN HONG KONG, TO RENEW THESE MANY ACQUAINTANCES
AND FRIENDSHIPS, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR ACTIVITIES
AT THIS SPRING MEETING.

QUOTE I HAVE OBSERVED HOW APCAC AS AN
ORGANIZATION HAS GROWN, BOTH IN NUMBERS AND ITS RANGE
OF INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES. THE ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM
WHICH APCAC TODAY DISPLAYS IN ITS MANY EFFORTS HAS BEEN
A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION TO ME, AS I
SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN BUSINESS HAS A VERY
SUBSTANTIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN NOT ONLY THE FURTHERANCE
OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS, BUT IN THE
HEALTHY AND DYNAMIC GROWTH OF THE ENTIRE PACIFIC AREA.
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND ALL
OF THE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT, AND THROUGH THEM THEIR
PARENT ORGANIZATIONS, FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND LEADING
ROLES THEY ARE PLAYING TODAY THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

QUOTE I HAVE ALSO BEEN GRATIFIED AT THE EVOLUTION WE
HAVE WITNESSED IN THE COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN
OUR RESPECTIVE AMERICAN CHAMBERS AND EMBASSIES IN
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. AS YOU KNOW, I DO NOT
TAKE THE CURRENTLY EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP FOR
GRANTED, BUT AM ANXIOUS TO SEEK AREAS IN WHICH THIS
COOPERATION CAN BE CONSOLIDATED AND EXPANDED. I KNOW
THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU AND THE APCAC DELEGATES TO
PRODUCE THOUGHTFUL SUGGESTIONS TO PROMOTE THAT
OBJECTIVE. WE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE IN THE
PAST BENEFITED IMPORTANTLY FROM SUCH SUGGESTIONS FROM
APCAC, AS WELL AS FROM APCAC'S VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF
ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. IN THIS ERA WHEN THE
UNITED STATES IS CONFRONTING A BROAD ARRAY OF FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES, IN WHICH GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC
ISSUES ARE OF SUCH IMPORT, WE NEED MORE THAN EVER YOUR
VIEWS AND IDEAS.

QUOTE IN CLOSING, LET ME AGAIN EXPRESS MY DEEPEST
APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF APCAC'S PAST ASSISTANCE TO
ME, AND TO OUR EMBASSIES. I REITERATE AGAIN OUR
KEEN HOPE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO EXPAND OUR CLOSE
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TIES. SINCERELY, PHILIP C. HABIB, ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS. END QUOTE EAGLEBURGER

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